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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 30 | Min 18 | Humidity 15% Misty morning and partly cloudy Sensex 58,644 | Nifty 17,516 | Gold 49,200 | Silver 65,100 | Dollar 74.69 | Euro 85.32 | GBP 101.35

As state reports 17 paediatric deaths positive for covid-19 in the past month, experts point to co-morbidities as primary risk

CHILDREN OF HEAVEN

Districts directed to conduct audit of deaths

Iffath Fathima @timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

From January 3 to February 4, paediatric deaths went up to 17 in Karnataka. With the so-called 'mild' third wave and majority of cases recovering, deaths in children are still a cause of concern.

The health and family welfare department has asked the districts to submit a detailed report of paediatric deaths by February 5.

Amongst the 17 deaths, Mysuru reported the highest in the last month with four deaths; three deaths were reported in Kalaburagi, two each in Bengaluru Urban and Chitradurga, and one each in Bagalkote, Belagavi, Vijayapura, Haveri, Bidar and Chikkaballapur.

In Bengaluru, on January 3, a 15-year-old unvaccinated female, diagnosed with ILI and fever, positive for covid-19, passed away in a private hospital. Likewise, a two-month-old baby girl positive for covid-19 on January 26 with SARI, fever, cough and breathlessness, died the same day. This death, however, was reported in Thursday's health bulletin.

A three-month-old female pediatric death was reported in Mysuru. The baby was in hospital for five days, but passed away on January 21. The cause of death is said to be recurrent broncho pneumonia with septicemia with covid pneumonia.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

> Covid pneumonia where children are on ventilators is not widely seen. Numbers look like there are covid paediatric deaths; but seems incidental
>
> – Dr Rajath Athreya, TAC member

The Great Escape

127 kids rescued from bonded labour in Bengaluru between July 2021 and January 2022

Bellie.Thomas@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @Bellie_Mirror

A 12-year-old boy was the reason behind setting up the Child Safety Network (CSN), a project of Bosco NGO in Bengaluru, involved in rescuing trafficked minors.

Project coordinator Shafi recalled receiving a phone call from Jagjeevan Ramnagar police station regarding 12-year-old Sudhamma. The child had approached the police after escaping from a bag stitching factory.

Children trafficked from various parts of the country to Bengaluru are made to work for meagre wages, according to Mohammed Sheik Shafi, project coordinator, CSN, Bosco, Bengaluru.

Smart and young Sudhamma, a native of Bihar, was scared, but put up a brave face, said Shafi who rushed to see him. The employer of the bag stitching company in Shammana Garden had approached Sudhamma's parents in Bihar, who were in utter penury, and offered them money in exchange for taking Sudhamma to Bengaluru, where he was promised a good future.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

Teenagers, gear up: Testing times ahead of you

Term Two of the CBSE 10th and 12th board examinations to be held in March – April

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The CBSE and Union Ministry of Education are all set to conduct Term Two of the 10th and 12th board examinations scheduled for March – April this year. The chances of the second term getting cancelled are very slim, as health experts had earlier mentioned that the third wave is under control. However, students who decide to skip the exams will be graded on the basis of their first term's test results. The duration of the second phase of exams will be of two hours and the questions will be subjective.

Dr Joseph Emmanuel, Academic Director of CBSE said: "The sample question papers and the marking schemes for Term Two examinations of Class 10 and 12 have been released on the website and the schools affiliated to CBSE Board have been alerted too."

Sanyam Bhardwaj, CBSE's controller of examinations, said that the exams will be cancelled only if the situation gets worse. "Marks obtained in the first phase will be considered final and based on them, the results will be prepared. But if such a situation does not arise and the second term is held successfully, the final result will be decided on the basis of 50 - 50 marks of these two terms."

Both the Union Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health are paying special attention to the vaccination of students between the 15 - 18 years of age group so that they can appear for the board exams safely.

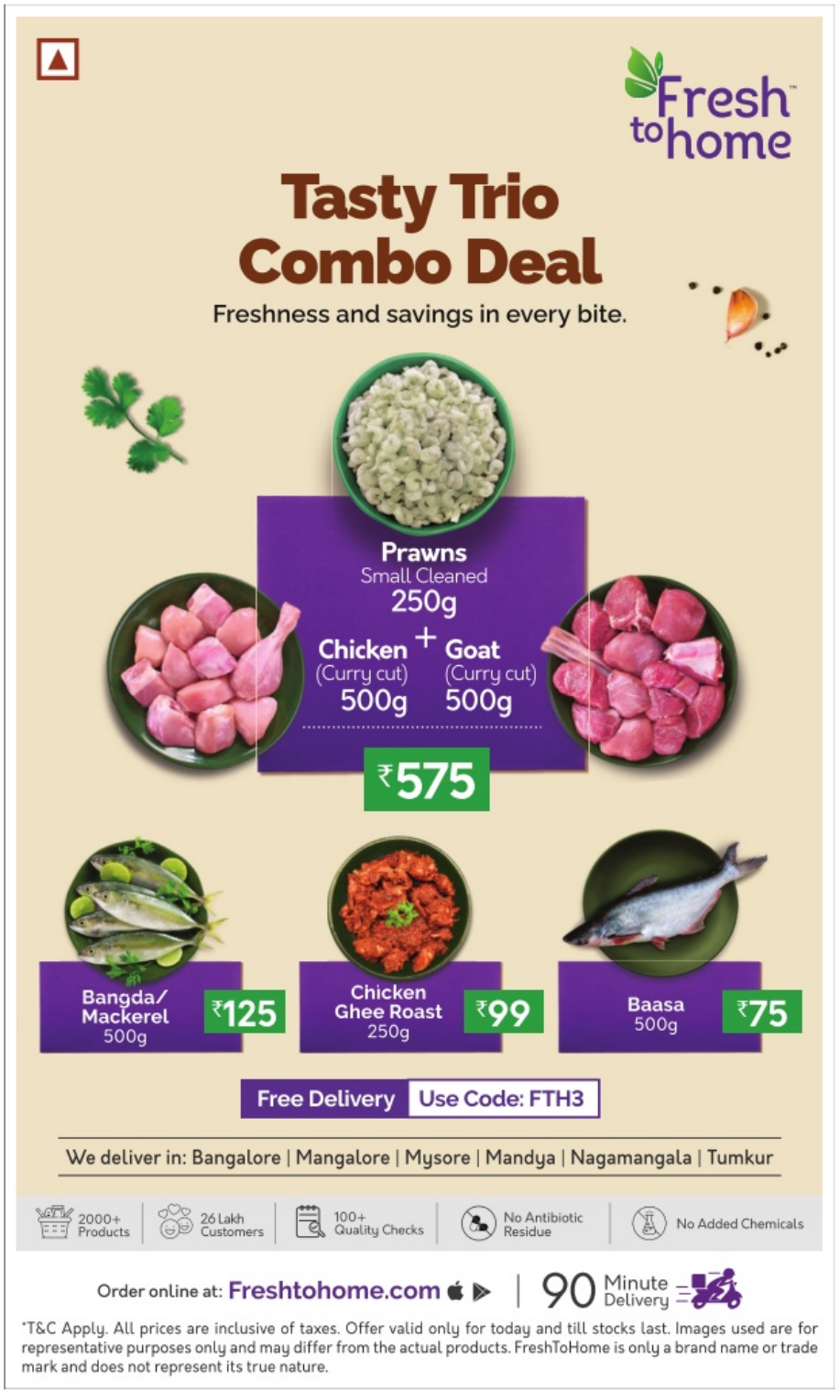
Each paper will be for two hours and the questions will be subjective

A principal from a city school said that institutions have been preparing for the exams. With Covid cases waning, many students may come forward to write exams in offline mode.

Another school principal added, "Offline classes are being planned for these children after immunisation of the 15 - 18 age group is complete. Vaccination camps within the school premises will help the children feel at home.

It is important to observe the students for a few days after vaccination as their health is our top priority." Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta said that the vaccination process was satisfactory. He said that vaccination camps for 15-18 years were being organised in campuses as well. "We have not got any reports about vaccine hesitancy among parents though it may be prevalent. Around 85 per cent of the students are in private schools/colleges. Earlier, many private institutions were in online mode and students were not coming to campus. With Covid cases waning, students are returning to campuses and this is also helping in vaccinating the students."

(with inputs from agencies)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4 THINGS TO DO

01 Pottery therapy

Channel the inner artist in you by signing up for these pottery-making workshops. You will be taught how to prepare the clay and use different techniques like hand-building, pinch, coil, and slab. Finally, you will be taught to fire the pots. **Where: Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar; When: Till Feb 6, multiple slots Tickets: 9886294444**

02 Talking performance

Attakalari India Biennial presents 'Talking Performance', a conference on future of dance. The event will have dancers, artists, and culture exponents delving into the topics of 'Archiving Practices of Performances', and 'The Future of Performance'. Spend an illuminating evening listening in to experts in the fields of contemporary dance, movement arts, theatre, and philosophy and gather over coffee for this conversation that takes a deep dive into the subject of future of performance. **Where: Online & Rangamandala, Attakkalari Centre for Movement Arts, Wilson Garden When: 5 Feb, 5 pm; Register: attakkalaribiennial.org/9972950973**

03 Work from museum

Tired of working from home? Looking for a change in your work environment? There's good news for you. The Indian Music Experience (IME) is inviting working professionals, freelancers and creative people to #WorkFromMuseum at IME. It's time to pack your bag and explore a new and creative environment to work with ease and a lot of other benefits at the museum. **Working Days: Tuesday to Sunday; Timings: 10 am – 6 pm; For queries: 9686602366**

04 Music lovers, unite

Lahe Lahe is calling all musicians and artistes to join in an evening of music. Gather as they host two amazing singers/ bands from the city and get mesmerised with their music! This will be followed by an open mic where 10 people from the audience get to perform for 3 minutes each. **Where: Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar; When: Feb 6, 6 pm – 8 pm Tickets: 9886294444**

Police has filed a case of cheating against the company and has named six people as the accused in the case, including directors

With ₹ 3 crore in pocket, company owners vanish

Accused allegedly scammed over 55 people, didn't return money after maturity period

Pragna L Krupa
pragna.krupa
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

A 51-year-old woman filed a complaint with the Ashoknagar police against a company and its owners for allegedly cheating her and 55 others. The accused allegedly collected over Rs 3 crore from them and did not return the money after the maturity period.

Manjula (name changed), a resident of Kengeri, said that she learned about the company in 2013 through her friend and met all directors and the management too, who later became her friends.

"The company, Angel Agritech Groups of Companies, offered us good schemes and I was running a paying guest accommodation at that time and decided to start investing for the sake of my children's future.

I invested about Rs 11 lakh in 2013 and paid the money monthly for about five years. In 2017, it matured but I never got the money back and similarly many who invested the money did not receive it either. As I was getting a commission to get more people to invest in the company, I got about 55 people whom I know from relatives and friends during the initial days.

Now not just me, all of them who trusted me have lost money and the accused has been promising us that he would pay but hasn't returned a single penny. Not just in Bangalore, many people across the state have also invested in it and no one has come forward to file a complaint with the police.

From our end, we had invested about Rs 2.5 crore and We are supposed to get Rs. 3.5 crore in return including interests. Other than myself, there are several other middlemen who brought in people to invest and they too are gathering people to come forward and file a complaint," she said.

> **"They kept changing the company's name several times and kept moving the office every year**
> – The complainant

Manjula said that the accused used their hard earned money to purchase properties in their own names and say that they don't have the money to return it immediately.

"We have been blindly believing in their words since 2017 and waiting for them to return our money without taking legal help but now all of us are fed up waiting.

They kept changing the company's name several times and even kept moving the office every year. It was very difficult for us to keep a track of them. Currently, the company is run by the name, Nihar Shakti Housing Cooperative Society. All the offices were vacated by the owners after they failed to pay the rent," she said.

A senior officer said that they have filed a case of cheating against the company and have named six people as the accused in the case, including A senior officer said that they have filed a case of cheating against the company and have named six people as the accused in the case, including the directors.

"We do not know the current location of the company and we are investigating further," he said. A case has been registered in the Ashoknagar police station.

Man confines, assaults woman for 2 years

The Gangammangudi police have registered a case of sexual assault, wrongful confinment, assault, atrocities, outraging the modesty of a woman, among other sections, against a 29-year-old man and his family.

The accused allegedly confined the woman for almost two years, sexually assaulted her, and forced her to sleep with his accomplices, who paid him money.

The woman, after delivering his child, moved to her mother's home with the child and got a job to start afresh, it is said. But, recently, the man allegedly forced her to travel to Kerala and live with a man named Farooq for 90 days as he was paid Rs 3 lakh for this.

Navya's (name changed) police complaint stated that she came to know of the accused 10 or 11 years ago. When the two became more than friends, he sexually assaulted her and confined her to his house in Hesaraghatta for nearly two years, Navya stated in her complaint.

On the evening of January 26, two men came to Navya's house and told her that he was waiting for her near a park in Abbigere, near her mother's home, and that he had something to talk about. They reportedly told her that if she did not come, he would come to her house. This is when he asked her to go to Kerala, it is said.

"He threatened to take my son away," Navya told BM. When she objected, the accused allegedly resorted to abuse and slurring. After the incident, she approached the police.

"Initially, the police would not file my complaint, but when I went with my family... they registered an FIR," Navya said. **— Bellie Thomas**

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BOTTLENECKED

Motorists struggle with traffic on Bengaluru-Old Ballari Rd, while govt sleeps on a land acquisition case stuck in SC for widening project approved 7 years ago

Prakash VL
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

A file pic of the congestion on Bengaluru-Old Ballari Road

Despite receiving the approval from the Supreme Court seven years ago, the project to widen the most congested KIA road has not begun yet. The government and BBMP have been stuck in confusion regarding the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) for the past six years. Meanwhile, motorists using the road are bearing the brunt of the heavy traffic on the road.

The Bengaluru-Old Ballari Road, which is connected to the Kempegowda International Airport, is one of the most congested roads in the city. In 2016, the government informed the Supreme Court that 60,000 to 75,000 vehicles travelled on the road on a regular basis. Weddings hosted at the Palace Grounds only fuel the scourge of the motorists stuck in traffic. During peak hours, travelling to the BDA Junction from Hebbal is the most difficult.

In 2006, the road widening proposal was made. BBMP had proposed road widening as per the expected rise in vehicle numbers when the airport work had started over a decade ago. A technical problem has been keeping the civic body from implementing it. Sixteen acres of land which had been proposed for the acquisition belonged to the Mysuru royal family. The dispute between the royal family and the state government was pending in the Supreme Court. When the government informed the Supreme Court of the road widening project, it approved it on November 21, 2014.

BBMP had proposed the road widening as per the expected rise in vehicle numbers when the airport work had started over a decade ago

But there was no mention of a TDR. The permission was granted and later an issue of paying TDR came up.

The confusion around the TDR has not been resolved yet. The government recently informed the High Court that BBMP is paying TDR instead of land. But there was a confusion about who was to receive the TDR. So, the government submitted an application requesting clarification on TDR. However, the government does not seem interested in getting the clarification early, so it is pending in the Supreme Court.

Ballari Road is proposed to be widened to 33 metres from 22 metres. It stretched between the Hebbal Flyover and Minsk Circle. Jayamahal Road has also been proposed to be extended from 16.10 metres to 30 metres. It stretches between Mekhri Circle and Cantonment Circle.

The widening of both the roads may result in axing more than 500 trees. As the proposal was prepared 15 years ago, engineers are planning to widen roads while keeping the trees. But it is a difficult task. There is a possibility of cutting some trees and replacing some. But without any clarification on TDR, such things cannot be decided yet.

Paediatric deaths 'largely incidental'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A large number of pediatric cases were reported during the second wave, including many deaths. Many were diagnosed with a serious condition — Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MISC). The third wave expert committee of the state government had said the third wave will hit the children hard; however; although it was not the same situation, yet, certain incidences of pediatric deaths have been noted.

Health and Family Welfare commissioner Randeep D told BM: "For pediatric deaths, we have to carry out detailed audits. We have drafted a letter to the districts; they have to do a detailed audit in a particular format and submit it. Thereafter, the audit team will throw some light on the details."

On February 2, a circular was sent to the districts to carry out the aforementioned audit and analysis of covid-19 deaths, including in adults, for the third wave, to ascertain causes and take remedial action. The circular stated that a detailed covid death audit of the deaths in January 2022 should be completed and submitted by February 5 to the commissioner.

Pediatricians part of the state government's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) pointed out that the pediatric deaths have been 'incidental', where the children are first diagnosed with other diseases and thereafter, when tested at hospitals, turn out positive for covid-19.

Dr Rajath Athreya, member of TAC, said, "We are carrying out death audits and from the face of it, we are not seeing children coming up with severe covid pneumonia and succumbing. What we are seeing in pediatric ICUs, has been incidental. If a child has cancer related illness and is extremely sick, when tested they are covid positive. Most of the deaths in children have been incidental. Some with brain tumors, kidney diseases or leukaemia have been covid positive. The focus should be on looking after the primary medical condition. For now, cases of covid pneumonia where children are admitted on ventilators is not seen in large numbers. The numbers look like there are covid pediatric deaths but it seems to be incidental."

Dr Shivananda, also a member of TAC, pointed to incidental cases. "The deaths are not directly related to covid, as cases in children have been mild so far in the third wave. During the second wave, we saw cases of children with respiratory lethargy or MISC. Now we are seeing cases of only upper respiratory infection. Some of the children develop convulsions with fever, and the parents rush them to hospitals where they are incidentally diagnosed with covid-19. Many cases are seen of late presentation to the hospital, wherein the child's condition has already deteriorated due to the prevailing conditions."

So far, going by the state war room data, the lowest number of deaths since the pandemic broke out in the state has been in the age group between 0-9 years with a total of 70 deaths. 101 deaths have been reported in the 10-19 age group. The 20-29 years age group reported 808 deaths. The highest deaths reported is in the 60-69 years of age category, at 10,989.

Meanwhile Dr Basvaraja of the clinical expert committee said, according to the preliminary reports of pediatric deaths in a few cases, most of them were due to comorbidities: "Preliminary investigation presents comborbities like blood cancer, developmental delay, aspiration pneumonia, biogenic meningitis as some of the reasons behind deaths. But these cases are yet to be ascertained and only after death auditing is done, we can conclude."

Commissioner Randeep also noted that by and large pediatric deaths are due to comorbidities. "Broadly, a few deaths have been of children who are very young or the ones who have had comorbidities. Overall, infection in children is low; yet, deaths are a cause of concern."

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Waste of space
Sunkadakatte

Despite having a concrete dustbin in place, Magadi Main Road is littered with garbage. Citizens must be more responsible.

Fix this
Nagarabhavi

The side of Nagarabhavi Main Road must be fixed soon. Cables sprouting out of the ground must be covered properly or they might get damaged.

Clean, sweep
Vijayanagar

The authorities concerned must clear these construction materials from the Metro station's premises to help maintain cleanliness in the area.

An apt year to invest in a home of luxury

Why it is expected that demand for luxury homes will be bullish this year

| Shehzin.Shaikh
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The higher end of the property market (properties costing Rs 1 crore and above) has done progressively better in 2021. From being about 21 per cent of all primary sales in 2020, they constituted about 23 per cent of the total primary sales, revealed Knight Frank Research. A new survey by a luxury residential and international property consultancy also stated that more than 1/4th of high-net-worth luxury home-buyers purchased real estate in the last 18 months.

All this data only goes on to show that because people were confined to their houses for long periods, the demand for homes with ultra-modern amenities has seen an uptick. As per experts, the Covid-19 period has created a reset in the luxury residential market, and sales are better compared to pre-Covid-19 levels with buyers looking at bigger and upgraded living spaces.

Why have we seen a considerable spike in the luxury and premium segment? Let's understand.

Key demand drivers

With work-from-home now being an integral part of the way we work, the demanding nature of houses has witnessed a change. "Looking at the luxury market, Koramangala in Bengaluru was among some of the best performing regions. There were consistent transactions throughout the year with luxury sales filling around 20-23 per cent of the total sale value. The trend has now shifted towards low-density projects with controlled gentry since people started spending the majority time in–houses," says Ritesh Mehta, senior director and head (West and North), residential services and developer initiatives, JLL India.

As a result of Covid-19, luxury home-buyers are now focussing on improving the quality of life with an emphasis on health and comfort. "Among UHNIs, there has been a strong demand for high-end properties that may serve as catch-all compounds, live-work spaces, and provide a resort-like living experience, as homes have become the sole space for all activities. As a result, the luxury real estate market in India has evolved to fill in the gap of providing a healthy lifestyle, world-class amenities, and distinctive architecture that supports the purchasers' concept of modern and elegant living," adds Ram Raheja, director of a realty firm.

Luxury landscape

With home-buyers viewing property investment very differently, real estate developers are armed with the most in-demand home features to appease buyers. "Homes that boast features like outdoor areas with huge patios, outdoor kitchens and bar areas, fire pits have gained supremacy. Glossy entrance lobby with a waiting area for guests and visitors, well-equipped gymnasium, high-speed elevators, reception and concierge desk, rooftop gardens, water walls, private pools, clubhouses, decks, balconies, courtyards, home automation are some of the key features that are being provided by premium developers. New-age digital transformation tools and advanced enterprise technologies such as the internet of things (IoT), ERP, robotics process automation (RPA), analytics for decision making and mobility solutions, and data science are also helping developers with negotiations, prompt assets valuation, and increasing visibility and productivity," adds Raheja.

"Tie-ups between top developers and high-end designers have become a new taste statement. Aesthetic internal specifications like the larger floor–to–ceiling height, designer wallpapers, high–end sanitary ware, modular kitchen, and smart homes have also become crucial factors. Also, developers are getting into second home options or primary home options with work-from-home facilities," explains Mehta. With safety and security assuming utmost importance, UHWIs prefer to purchase a home in an integrated township that does not require them to step out of the community. "A gated community provides a holistic living experience. Developers are offering premium facilities that range from a drive-in theatre, health care facilities, assisted living for seniors, supermarkets, shopping centres, hotels and schools all within reach," elaborates Sandeep Runwal, MD of a real estate company.

— Times Property

A cat lover's worst nightmare

In less than two months, many cats have gone missing and died in Sobha Hill View Apartment

Bellie Thomas
bellie.thomas@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @Bellie_Mirror

An upscale residential gated community, Sobha Hill View Apartment in Talaghattapura, has been hit with a spate of deaths and missing stray cats.

According to residents who are pet parents and animal lovers, there were more than 85 stray cats within their community two months ago. But this has recently reduced to less than half over the past two months and most of the cats that died, or went missing were apparently healthy and friendly animals, the residents reiterated.

One of the residents stated that this has never happened in the last 10 years in this premises. In the last two to three months, severe objections were raised by a few residents who wanted to remove the cats from the premises.

There were also heated arguments and debates among a few residents who just wanted to get rid of the cats.

Though volunteers collected money and were preparing for sterilization of cats as per the Animal Welfare Board of India circulars, the said few residents objected to even sterilisation because they just wanted to get rid of the cats. And their intention of getting rid of stray cats by the so-called few anti-animal residents were also been documented in various WhatsApp chats of the residents.

Two months earlier, there were more than 85 streeties in the apartment complex

It was further observed that there were a series of deaths of cats. In a few of the cases, the dying cats were seen vomiting blood. When volunteers had taken a dying cat to nearby veterinary hospital -- Jeeva Hospital, on Kanakapura Road, the vets on duty suspected it to be a case of poisoning.

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 prohibits any person from inflicting, causing, or if it is the owner, permitting, unnecessary pain or suffering to be inflicted on any animal. The act also makes it a crime to beat, kick, torture, mutilate, administer an injurious substance, or cruelly kill an animal. This is also a crime and punishable under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 428 and 429.

Subsequently, a group of animal loving residents from Sobha Hill View collected all evidence and photographs of the dead cats within their premises and approached the Talaghattapura police and filed a complaint. The cops have registered a Non-Cognizable Report (NCR) and would be conducting inquiries to find the culprits who could have poisoned the cats. "Animal welfare activists and animal lovers of our apartment are holding a candle-light vigil on 13th of February 2022 in the memory of all the dead stray cats," a resident stated.

Educationists unveil logo of Bengaluru Chancellors' Conclave 2022

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Top educationists launched the logo of Bengaluru Chancellors' Conclave 2022 with the theme of making Bengaluru an education hub on Friday. This is an initiative by Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror.

Friday's event was a precursor to the conclave scheduled for February 10 which will be inaugurated by Higher Education Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan. Chancellors, Vice-Chancellors and other top educationists of prestigious universities will brainstorm various issues and draw the attention of the government.

Friday's logo-unveiling event was attended by Dr P Shyama Raju (Chancellor, Reva University), Dr Joseph VG (Chancellor, Garden City University), Dr M. Dhanamjaya (Vice-Chancellor, Reva University), Dr M Sai Baba (Registrar, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences), Chetan Singai (Special Officer, Karnataka State Higher Education Council) and Ranjeet Kate (CEO of Bangalore Mirror and Vijay Karnataka). The education partner for the event is A6 Advertising.

(L-R): Chetan Singai (Special Officer, Karnataka State Higher Education Council), Dr P Shyama Raju (Chancellor, Reva University), Dr Joseph VG (Chancellor, Garden City University), Dr M Sai Baba (Registrar, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences), Dr M Dhanamjaya (Vice-Chancellor, Reva University) and Sudhakar MR (Director, A6 Advertising)

NIMHANS turns the spotlight on tele-mental healthcare

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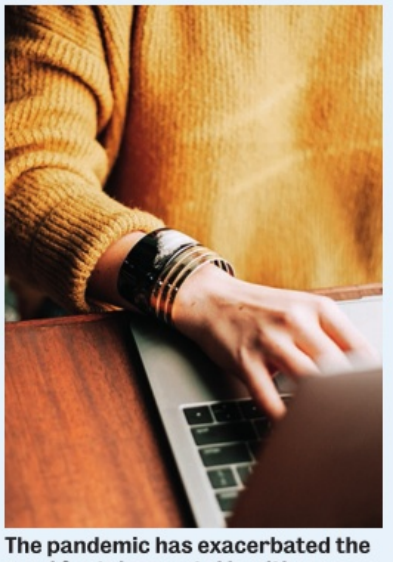
NIMHANS has come out with a programme T-MANAS that will provide tele-counselling mental care 24/7 by working with district hospitals. T -MANAS will be set up in all the states and union territories. The vision of T-MANAS is to provide immediate mental health interventions to people in mental distress, particularly those in remote and underserved areas of our country.

So far, about 200 million people in India have mental health issues requiring intervention and as of now, roughly only one in five patients are getting access to treatment, and the Union Budget also stressed on the importance of tele-mental health counselling. In order to bridge the gap, the government has come out with District Mental Health Program. Digital Academies are established in central mental health institutes to enhance human resources.



The pandemic has exacerbated the need for tele-mental healthcare

However, in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and to identify and address common mental health problems, to identify severe mental illness and suicidality and obtain timely professional help. the T-MANAS initiative will be set up by NIMHANS, where NIMHANS will function as the nodal centre.

The initiative will provide a comprehensive continuum of care by networking with the nearest medical colleges, district mental health programs, specialized services spread across the country.

This proposal will also connect primary healthcare delivery system including the primary health centres, health and wellness centres under Ayushman Bharat, provide linkages to both communicable and non-communicable disease programs (there is unaddressed mental morbidity in conditions like TB, HIV, Cancer, Diabetes etc). It will also engage in research to determine the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness and reach of this service.

Pub brawl: Man surrenders after assaulting manager

Pragna L Krupa
pragna.krupa@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

As a result of a brawl over not being allowed inside a well-known pub in Koramangala, six men allegedly assaulted the manager.

Pavan Mandanna, 39, a resident of Kudlu and the manager of Tipsy Bull, filed a complaint with the police. The incident took place on Tuesday, around 11:30 pm, and Pavan, who had sustained injury near his eyes. He later approached the police on Wednesday. Pavan has been working as a manager with the pub for three years.

On Tuesday, Pavan was on duty when about six men came to the pub and were stopped by the guards at the entrance.

Pavan said that the men were trying to get inside, but the guards informed them that they do not allow stag entry. "I explained to them that only couples were allowed but they were not ready to listen. They seemed a little drunk and started to use offensive words on me. I asked the staff to call the bouncers. Suddenly, one of the men took out a sharp object from his pocket and attacked me on my head. He assaulted me very badly and when he hit my right eye, I blacked out for a few seconds when they fled. After regaining consciousness, I rushed to a hospital and took treatment. As it was very late, I approached the police on the next day."

> **They seemed a little drunk and started using offensive words. Suddenly, one of the men took out a sharp object from his pocket and attacked me on my head** –Pavan, victim

A senior officer said that after they filed a complaint, the accused surrendered to the police. He said, "They were drunk and were creating nuisance outside the pub in an attempt to enter. However, in fit of anger one of them assaulted. After getting sober the next day, he confessed to the police. We have arrested him and booked him under various IPC sections."

Further investigations are underway.

Theatres, gyms, pools go full swing

Considering dip in cases, State allows 100% occupancy in some places

Despite the relaxation, theatres are expected to operate by enforcing covid-appropriate behaviour

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With covid cases decreasing and increased pressure from various sectors, the State Government relaxed the 50:50 occupancy rule in theatres, gyms and swimming pools.

The decision to allow 100 per cent occupancy was taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai with the health minister, senior officials and technical advisory committee representatives.

At the meeting, it has been decided to relax these curbs by following certain precautionary measures, Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar said. Addressing reporters here after the meeting, he said the decision has been taken after considering the current covid situation and the reduced rate of hospitalisation coming down to 2 per cent from 5-6 per cent in January.

"Theatres and film industry had faced losses due to covid, so aimed at creating a conducive atmosphere for them to carry on with their activities and for the benefit of the people, it has been decided that theatres can operate with 100 per cent seating capacity from Saturday. Similarly, gyms, yoga centres and swimming pools can also operate with full capacity," he added.

> **Theatres and film industry had faced losses due to covid. Aimed at creating a conducive atmosphere for them to carry on, the decision was taken** –Dr K Sudhakar, minister

Stating that certain precautionary measures will be released in the form of guidelines that have to be followed, the minister said that those going to theatres should wear masks compulsorily. Food items will not be allowed inside the cinema hall, he added.

Further two dose vaccination is mandatory for those entering theatres, gyms, yoga centres and swimming pools. " Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials will keep a check on the implementation of the guidelines, and will take necessary action in case of any violation," he added.

With the third wave of the pandemic receding, the government had recently decided to remove most of the curbs, including revoking the daily night curfew and 50 per cent seating limitation on pubs, restaurants, hotels and eateries, and allowing schools to resume physical classes in Bengaluru. Earlier, the government also lifted the weekend curfew.

With several new movies getting lined up for release, the government was under pressure from the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) to allow 100 per cent occupancy in theatres. Stating that KFCC members have promised to abide by rules, the Minister in response to a question said, the rules and curbs in place for marriage and convention halls will continue.

1 year internship mandatory

CM Bommai has instructed officials to write to the National Medical Council to make one year internship compulsory for medical students in government colleges. "Relieve the District Medical Officers from administrative work of the hospitals and appoint KAS officers for administrative work in the hospitals," Bommai instructed.

Covid cases dip

In a positive development, the positivity rate in Bengaluru fell to single digit (9.17 per cent), lowest since January 8.

The daily new cases in Bengaluru have fallen by 80 per cent from the peak of 30,540 on January 20. On Friday, 14,950 cases were reported in the State including 6,039 in Bengaluru. The overall positivity in the State was 10.93 per cent. With 40,599 discharges, the active cases in the State have dipped to 1,23,098 (including 51,000 in Bengaluru). However, deaths are still higher with 53 deaths in the State including 15 in Bengaluru.

IISc commissions country's most powerful supercomputer

Under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has installed and commissioned Param Pravega, one of the most powerful supercomputers in the country, and the largest in an Indian academic institution.

The system, which is expected to power diverse research and educational pursuits, has a total supercomputing capacity of 3.3 petaflops (1 petaflop equals a quadrillion or 1015 operations per second). It has been designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

A majority of the components used to build this system have been manufactured and assembled within the country, along with an indigenous software stack developed by C-DAC, in line with the Make in India initiative, according to press release by IISc.

NSM is steered jointly by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and implemented by C-DAC and IISc. The Mission has supported the deployment of 10 supercomputer systems so far at IISc, IITs, IISER Pune, JNCASR, NABI-Mohali and C-DAC, with a cumulative computing power of 17 petaflops.

About 31,00,000 computational jobs have successfully been carried out by around 2,600 researchers across the country to date. These systems have greatly helped faculty members and students carry out major R&D activities, including developing platforms for genomics and drug discovery, studying urban environmental issues, establishing flood warning and prediction systems and optimising telecom networks.

The Param Pravega system at IISc is a mix of heterogeneous nodes, with Intel Xeon Cascade Lake processors for the CPU nodes andANVIDIA Tesla V100 cardsAon the GPU nodes. The hardware consists of an ATOS BullSequana XH2000 series system, with a comprehensive peak compute power of 3.3 petaflops. The software stack on top of the hardware is provided and supported by C-DAC. The machine hosts an array of programme development tools, utilities, and libraries for developing and executingAHigh Performance Computing (HPC) applications.

IISc already has a cutting-edge supercomputing facility established several years ago. In 2015, the Institute procured and installed SahasraT, which was at that time the fastest supercomputer in the country.

Faculty members and students have been using this facility to carry out research in various impactful and socially-relevant areas. These include research on Covid-19 and other infectious diseases. –IANS

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

TAKE THAT LEAP

"On one of my trips to the GudiBande Fort, I saw this monkey jumping from one pillar to the other -- effortlessly and flawlessly. One misstep, and it would be fatal."

The picture was clicked by reader **Rishi Upmanyu**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

Plenty of pothole perils for D'Souza Rd residents

Numerous accidents have taken place on stretch dotted with multiple potholes; authorities apathetic to issue

| Shreyashi Mukherjee
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

D'Souza Road under Ward 111 has become a matter of concern for the residents of that area, thanks to the many potholes that lie unattended.

The residents complain that the potholes have been a part of the street for more than seven to eight years. These potholes have posed a number of threats to the people and many have termed the road unfit for commuting using two-wheelers.

Captain Guru Prasad, an ex-merchant navy officer and a resident of the area, said, "I have seen these potholes for more years than I can remember. I have seen so many people falling and hurting themselves. The road has become extremely dangerous."

Residents say that during the rainy season, their problems increase by two-fold. The potholes get filled with water and people risk falling in them and injuring themselves. The ongoing construction is another factor that irks the residents of the area.

From citizens injuring themselves to vehicles skidding during the rain, potholes can be fatal for a commuter

Nikita Dubey, another resident of the area, said: "The constructions have been going on here for more than 17 years. There seems to be no end to the work being done. The workers dig the road and leave it open. It takes too much time and effort to travel to another place and sometimes even urgent work gets delayed."

The residents took their problems to BBMP officials with the hope that officials would help them solve their problems. However, no action was taken by the officials. Instead, they were tossed from one department to another.

A resident, who requested to remain anonymous, said: "I have complained to BBMP so many times; they told me that the road was dug by BWSSB.

When I went to BWSSB and requested them to fill up the holes, they said that BBMP has not given them funds to complete the work. They just keep telling us to go from one place to another." The residents say that the potholes and numerous constructions have made the road unsafe for not just the adults, but for the kids living there as well.

DID YOU KNOW?

If you're a true-blue Bengalurean, there is no way you would have missed out on the iconic Mavalli Tiffin Room's (MTR) Rava Idli. But while this dish is a breakfast-favourite, did you know that it was created due of a shortage of food during the Second World War? During the second world war, Karnataka was met with an acute shortage of rice which forced MTR to experiment with new ingredients to keep the business going. In one such fine experimentation, the traditional rice batter of idli was replaced with a semolina batter, which in turn gave birth to our beloved Rava Idli.
Rava Idlis, like typical idlis, are puffed, steamed cakes. However, they are much chunkier, and the addition of nuts, mustard seeds, and curry leaves makes it a memorable dish. It is served with a portion of Sambhar and a choice of chutneys, and is a healthy dish too. (with inputs from Wikipedia and slurrp.com)

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

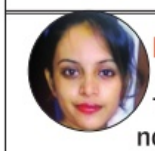
where Bengalureans speak their mind

What have been your good or bad experiences with the Smart City work in Bengaluru?

Roopa BL
Home maker
The Smart City's aim seems to be 'no more greenery' because all I see is cutting down decades-old trees. I want to see my city be jam-free, but not at the cost of our environment.

Purushotham N Gowda
Managing director of YL CHITS
The dust, dirt, and road blocks have made this busy city even more polluted. They repair roads that have already been torn down in the name of Smart City work. The Bengaluru Smart City work is imperceptive and tedious.

Indresh BD
Entrepreneur, Prakul arts
I feel good about the initiative of the government and this work would improve the city. There are CCTVs at the corner of the road to avoid thefts.
Our city is getting better each day and it feels amazing living here.



Lavanya BH
Entrepreneur, Prakul arts
The work is torture for citizens nowadays with so many pits on the road. We aren't able to walk properly on the road and it's creating many other problems in the localities. Kids aren't able to play and this dust and everything is a mess.

Joseph Felix Benedict
Consulting engineer
Smart City work mainly consists of roads, footpaths and drains. The authorities took almost three years to complete 32 roads. Nevertheless, they were able to complete it despite the pandemic.

SPEAK TO US

Which segments were the most ignored and most taken care of in the Union Budget?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

Showdown time

Bike taxi riders say cab drivers are cornering them to get their vehicles seized to retrieve which they have to pay big fines

Many Rapido riders say they took up this job after facing financial difficulties during the pandemic

Melvin Mathew
mybangaloremirror
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Captains of a bike taxi service in the city are finding themselves in deep water after the tussle between Rapido and cab drivers plying led to the seizing of 120 Rapido bikes.

Captains claim they have moved to Rapido after being pushed into penury. They allege they are being forced to pay the brunt of the conflict between Rapido and cab drivers.

It is learnt that after the RTO deemed the operation of Rapido illegal in the city, Rapido riders have been getting gheraoed by cab drivers and their vehicles being stopped.

Nagendra, who has been a Rapido captain for nine months, told Bangalore Mirror his scooter was seized. "I was going to a pick-up location and I noticed 30-40 people waiting along with RTO officers. Cab drivers who wanted to catch us had booked a ride on the app," he said.

Another Rapido captain also said they were being simply penalised for doing their job and this was due to pressure from cab drivers. "Cab drivers are worried they will lose operations and they are resorting to such measures. Even auto drivers can take three passengers at a time but it's illegal for us. But, we don't raise an issue about this," said a Rapido captain, Govind Raju.

> **"I worked as a cab driver for four years. After pandemic, I had to give away the car. After joining Rapido, I became financially independent but now cabbies have started this** –Nagendra, Rapido captain

During the lockdown, the transport too was affected badly. Due to this, cabbies have been protesting against Rapido.

Nagendra was formerly with another cab-on-hire service platform. "I worked for four years as a cab driver. When the pandemic hit, I could not afford to pay EMIs and had to give away the vehicle. I started riding for Rapido after taking a bike on EMI. After joining Rapido, I have become financially independent but now cabbies have started this issue," said Nagendra. Nagendra, like many others in the city, migrated to Bengaluru in search of a job that gives a better salary.

A full-time working Rapido captain can easily earn somewhere around Rs 2,000 per day. But the recent turn of events has cast a shadow on their future.

The bigger issue in front of them is that they have to pay lump sum amounts to retrieve their vehicles and resume work.

Bike taxi drivers have claimed that the fine varies for different people though most have been caught for the same offence. They have been informed that they have to pay a penalty of around Rs 6,500. "We don't pick up passengers on the road. We only pick them up through the app. So, we have asked Rapido to help us with the amount and Rapido has assured us support," said Nagendra. Worried about the pending fines, Govindraju, a Rapido captain, said he needs to pay a fine ranging from Rs 2,000-Rs 6,000.

'Rapido follows rules'

Responding to the issue, Pavan Guntupalli, Co-founder, Rapido, said "The seizure of our drivers bikes is a testament to how the brand is being harassed. Following the clear High Court order last August, Rapido has been running operations legally across the city. Rapido stands proud as a brand that abides by the law and is a tax-paying entity across all the states it operates. The Government authorities have clearly stated post the court order that none of our vehicles would be seized and our drivers would not be accused of illegal practices, however, Rapido is facing these accusations time and again."

A couple of pervs on social media?

A man has been arrested after his wife and he went public on social media about them seeking a sexual partner and uploaded obscene photos.

The accused has been identified as Vinay Kumar, a resident of Parappana Agrahara, and a sales executive personnel. Police said the couple had a love marriage. After marriage they decided to create several profiles on social media where they uploaded their obscene photos seeking a partner. A police officer said the couple would tweet saying that they're in the city and are up for experiments and are looking for a partner. "When contacted, they would share an ID on Telegram app. If all agreed, the couple would share their address and ask the interested to visit home," he said.

During probe, it was revealed that the couple used to watch fantasy videos. They had also posted obscene photos on social media and shared with many people. Police said uploading nude photos on social media is an offence and they will be booked under IT Act. "We took up the case after the public tagged us and reported the couple's posts and account," said the officer. —BMB

RAJMOHAN SUDHAKAR

EVER CHANGING MOODS

Write to him at c-rajmohan.sudhakar@timesgroup.com

Points of no return

It appears the west is more worried about Russia invading Ukraine than Ukrainians themselves. While some reports did try to put this point in perspective, surely, the world doesn't want another crisis spiralling out of control as the pandemic-wrecked economy revives slowly.

Overly eager parties, neither the United States nor UK are in the immediate neighbourhood of Ukraine, barring Nato forces. Russia, the largest country on the planet, is.

For the no confidence-facing 'Bojo' of Britain in the fallout of the partygate scandal and an-year-in-office US prez Biden looking to channel brewing frustrations back home elsewhere, Ukraine is the perfect distraction to gaslight their constituents saying how the west is under threat again and why urgent counter measures are warranted, just as it were in Syria or Afghanistan. The coronavirus is no more a 'reliable' trope, you see: the 'killing' of a so-called Isis leader in Syria has restarted the US' self-serving global peace-keeping operations post pandemic, just as Bojo paid a flash visit to Kiev, purportedly to set stage and 'lift the spirit of Ukranians', when he himself is subjected to a criminal probe in the UK.

No doubt, another great global geopolitical facade is raised — it is quite another matter that the west shall ease itself out at will in future, if things were to implode, which is highly likely in the region, leaving an irreparable conflict zone as a result, just as we saw in Afghanistan and Syria. The devastating and defining image of western excesses in the global stage is still fresh in the collective psyche: a military aircraft taxiing before take off at the runway in Kabul swarmed by hapless Afghans — yes, they are people too — who suddenly found themselves in Taliban hell.

The funny thing is, Ukrainians are aware of this probable trajectory. What is of concern is the flawed foreign policy refusing to unlearn from past mistakes; a point of no return, as many things stand today.

For instance, a recent research report showed how ocean temperatures breached a 50-year record back in 2014, proof of the irreversible fallout of the climate emergency frenzying out of control, already — not humanly salvageable now. We are in the midst of such human-induced points of no return, not only in climate, geopolitics and foreign policy, but the entire life cycle on earth. A state of irreversible damage to the status quo — covid-19 is one such point. In the foreign policy conundrum, however, what amazes me is the speed with which news is spun for the benefit of the powers that be, when in crisis; no shameful points of return there, eh?

Just as the address of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in the Lok Sabha took the incumbents by surprise on Wednesday, a seemingly confident and collected Gandhi tearing into the nerves of the ruling dispensation on record unemployment, Pegasus scandal, rising income inequality, how India is a constitutional Union of states not a fiefdom, alongside the foreign policy fiasco the country finds itself in today, 'surrounded' and 'a nation at risk', according to Gandhi, 'with Pakistan and China brought together by India's flawed foreign policy' — online news media, always eager to sings paeans of the establishment, found it confusing what to do for hours before pulling together somehow, unaware of what had hit them.

The Hive, installation at Kew Gardens, UK/Nick Fewings

As soon as the opposition mounted the critique, in an hour-long address by the leader of the opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, apprising the house of the atrocities unleashed upon minorities in Karnataka among many other critical issues facing the state of the Union, alongside a fiery attack from TMC's Mahua Moitra in the LS, a report emerged out of nowhere, attributed to a group of social media researchers, on a nondescript news entity in Australia, that no one's heard of, proclaiming China suffered more casualties than previously thought in the Galwan skirmish. Am I reading these two together, especially the timing, or is it just coincidence?

Another report did curry favour; it said, the US did not endorse Gandhi's view on geopolitics in the region. Why should the US endorse or not endorse an opposition party's position in the Indian parliament? Curiouser and curiouser, it does get, oftentimes lately. Since when did the US start commenting on India's internal matters? Has the US replaced the opposition in the parliament? Bit of a stretch, don't you think?

Anyhow, amongst these points of no return, definitely, one of immense concern is the advanced military-grade tech aiding state-funded digital voyeurism. A widely-discussed New York Times story said 'India did buy Pegasus software from Israel in 2017'.

To top it all, with a budget that does not acknowledge any of the burning issues at hand, neither the farm distress nor flailing economy, one does wonder how virtually impossible it is to recalibrate and course-correct from these seminal points of no return.

PAGE 16 **Raj Kundra's precious transfer to wifey dear**

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shrunottara Anant Koppar resident of No.534, 'Indira', 27th Cross, IDEAL Homes Town ship, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bangalore-560098 have changed our minor son's name from KAYUR CHHABBI to KAYUR SHRUNOTTARA vide affidavit dated 04.02.2022 before notary C.K Anupama, Bangalore-09.

I, RAMARAM S/o Joga Ramji, residing at No. 23/4, 4th Cross, Kempapura Agrahara, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560023, have changed my name to RAMA RAM DEVASI, vide affidavit dated 04.02.2022, sworn before notary K.S Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

I, LAVANYA SRIKANTH aged about 41 years, R/at No.55, 8th A Main, Near Forthuna Center, Canara Bank Layout, Bengaluru-560097 have changed my name to LAVANYA RAMESH vide affidavit dated: 3/2/2022 Before Notary D Guna Shekar Bangalore.

I, Ammu W/o late. Paul R/o No.586, 6th cross, 10th main,HAL 3rd stage,opp Miranda college Bengaluru 560075 have changed my name to AMALA MARY affidavit Dt.02/02/2022 notary A.R Muneer Ahmed B'luru

I, Bheemaiah A C S/o, Chiyanna A A R/o No 32 1st Main Maruthi Extn Srirampuram B'lore 560021 have changed my name to Vinod Bheemaiah for all purposes

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Salvaging a lost childhood

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Upon arrival, Sudhamma was confined to a congested space in the factory — stitching bags, eating and sleeping at the same place. He was not allowed to call his parents and was threatened with dire consequences, request upon request. He was paid around Rs 4,000, at times, a little more, depending on how many bags he would stitch.

There were several other boys there like Sudhamma. One day, somehow he managed to escape the factory and walked into Jagjeevan Ramnagar police station.

The cops informed Child Welfare officials and he was handed over to them.

"Sudhamma guided the cops to the factory as there were other boys, trapped and tormented there," Shafi told Bangalore Mirror.

From the factory in Shammana Garden, five other boys were rescued and the owner slapped with a case of child labour.

Child welfare department contacted Sudhamma's parents in Bihar and he was reunited with them, after counselling sessions.

Sudhamma was among the 127 kids that the Child Safety Network of Bosco rescued from bonded labour in Bengaluru between July 2021 and January 2022 from 12 locations.

"They were all minors, aged 11-18 years, rescued during a seven-month period," said Basavaraju PN, rescue coordinator and ex-Child Welfare Committee member, Bengaluru Urban.

"Children were engaged in bag stitching, garage, sari colouring, glass cutting, printing, cap stitching, paper making, steel chair making, kulfi/ice candy making, scrap and construction works. Rescue was in line with covid protocol," Basavaraju pointed out.

According to the CSN team, Bihar accounted for the lion's share of rescued children. Around 77 minor boys among the 127 children were from Bihar; 41 came from Karnataka. "There were three children each from Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, whereas Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and West Bengal accounted for one child each," said Shafi.

The rescue operations took place in KP Agrahara, Cottonpet, JJR Nagar, Chandra Layout, Chamarajpet, Magadi Road, Upparpet, Kengeri, RR Nagar, DJ Halli, Vijay Nagar and VV Puram. Inquiries revealed most children were brought to Bengaluru by work agents, who made advance payments to their poor parents.

The children were forced to work from 8:00 am till late night in suffocating conditions, with little or no medical care. They were not provided face masks, exposing them to covid-19. They were not permitted to talk to their parents back home. On an average, they were paid wages between Rs 4,000–8,000 a month.

"The circumstances rendered the children susceptible to economic and sexual exploitation, slavery and trafficking as well," Basavaraju noted.

Post rescue, all the 127 children were tested for covid-19, provided necessary medical care and produced before the Child Welfare Committee. Twenty two children were below the age of 14 and the remaining 105 were between 14 and 18 years of age. As children below 14 years made to work constitute child labour, cases were registered against the employers concerned of 22 children. All the children were placed in child care institutions, soon after. They were subsequently sent back home, escorted by parents, the Bosco team said.

Rs 50-cr fund to transform Mysuru

Mayor Palanethra wants to start the work before her term finishes on Feb 24

Prakash VL
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Finally, now it is time to put an end to the hardship faced by commuters in the heritage city of Mysuru. A special fund has been released and this will help in a makeover of the city's damaged roads.

The Chief Minister's special fund was granted to repair the damaged roads of Mysuru city. Most of the main roads and internal roads in the wards of the city are filled with potholes, which are also life threatening for commuters.

Each year, a fund is released for the State festival of Dasara. The whole of Mysuru wear a new look at the time of the festival.

The regular release of funds and repairing of the roads was routine every year. But, as the covid-19 pandemic hit, the Dasara festival was celebrated in a simple manner and no funds were released.

This resulted in a lack of maintenance of the roads. This was added by incessant rains, leading to further damage of the roads.

The potholes on the roads caused many to fall and a lot of people sustained injuries. Citizens are angry at the government for not repairing the roads.

Mysuru Mayor Sunanda Palanethra said, "A special fund of Rs 50 crore was released by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. We have invited tenders to repair the roads. We have also discussed with the officials and identified the works to be done. As it is a special fund, the works will be done at my own discretion and they will also bear the nameplate consisting of "Special fund of Mayor".

Palanetra's term of office is ending on February 24. In this background, she is trying to start the work before the tenure ends. She said, "I had a feeling of dissatisfaction for not carrying out important works in the city due to the pandemic. But, as now we have received the special fund, I wanted to start the work. If roads are developed, it will satisfy me."

Palanetra had requested the government to release Rs100 crore towards the special fund, but Rs 50 crore was released.

Potholes and drainage issues on the roads has become a big headache for Mysuru residents

"We have invited tenders to repair the roads. We have also discussed with the officials and identified the works to be done –Sunanda Palanethra, Mayor

Existing uniform rules to stay: CM

In the wake of the 'hijab' (headscarf) row, the Karnataka government has asked educational institutions to follow existing uniform related rules, until the High Court comes out with an order next week.

With the issue snowballing into a major controversy, spreading to other educational institutions, and the matter coming up before the High Court, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai today held a meeting with Primary and Secondary Education Minister B C Nagesh and top government officials, regarding the government's stand.

The Hijab controversy took an ugly turn on Friday with students wearing hijab barred from entering their classroom in Kundapur town of Udupi. The students were stopped at the institution's grounds by the school management, stating that they will not be allowed inside the campus. Meanwhile, parents also protested that students should be allowed inside the campus.

Congress leader Siddaramaiah threw his weight behind Muslim girls on their right to wear the hijab to educational institutions, and hit out at the BJP government. "The CM has advised us to inform the government's stand to the court after getting the Advocate General's opinion. The legal department informed the meeting as to what the law states," Nagesh said.

Alleging "hidden hands" behind the hijab controversy as attempts are on to make it an international news, Nagesh said, "some people who are against this country, as part of a propaganda, are doing this. They are unable to digest India's standing globally and the respect our Prime Minister is getting internationally."

The minister told mediapersons that uniform rules were framed in 2013 and 2018 on the basis of the Karnataka Education Act. The law states that educational institutions and its SDMCs (School Development and Monitoring Committees) have the right to decide the uniform for its students. "We have gone through all this and the government will take a decision soon," he said, adding that no one can impose their personal or any religion's stand in educational institutions.

The Karnataka High Court on February 8 will hear the petitions filed by five girls studying in a Government Pre-university College in Udupi, questioning hijab restriction in college.

Students wearing hijab sit outside their school in Kundapura

The High Court on February 8 will hear the petitions filed by five girls studying in a Government Pre-university College in Udupi

–BMB + Agencies

What's in the bag? Just my girlfriend

An engineering student was suspended by college authorities after he was caught red-handed while trying to sneak his girlfriend into his hostel room at Manipal in Udupi. The girl was being carried in a trolley bag.

The hostel authorities have also suspended the girl.

According to sources, the boy walked into the hostel premises with a big trolley bag. When he had almost reached his room, the caretaker, noticing the unusually big trolley bag, became suspicious and questioned the boy.

The boy tried to convince the caretaker telling him that he was carrying some delivered courier in the trolley bag. The caretaker, who grew more suspicious by the answers, asked him to open the bag.

When the bag was unzipped, the girl came out. Sources explained that the girl managed to squeeze herself into the trolley bag as she is a dancer. The girl also studied in the same college.

The duo have returned to their homes, according to sources. The incident took place on Tuesday evening. –IANS

'Centre's decision unilateral'

Senior Congress leader Siddaramaiah on Friday accused the Central government of unilaterally announcing the river-linking project in the Union Budget without taking Karnataka into confidence, which, he said, was against the basic structure of the Constitution and federalism.

He said Tamil Nadu is likely to gain benefit from the proposed project. Therefore, the Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly urged the State government to immediately call for an all-party meet to discuss and send the State's unanimous view to the Centre in this regard.

He expressed Congress's opposition to the project and termed the attitude of the Centre as dictatorial.

"The Finance Minister in the Union Budget has announced a proposal for linking southern rivers and this project is probably not viable. Nirmala Sitharaman, the Finance Minister, is from Tamil Nadu and hence I feel she has proposed it in the budget," Siddaramaiah said.

He told mediapersons here on Froday that it appears that no discussion on river-linking has been held with Karnataka.

–PTI

'Don't reject ex gratia on technical grounds'

Apex Court directs state, UT govts to pay compensation in 10 days of getting claims, to appoint nodal officers

#New Delhi

The Supreme Court Friday directed all states governments and Union Territories to appoint dedicated nodal officer to coordinate with the member secretary of the state legal service authority (SLSA) to facilitate payment of ex gratia compensation to family members of covid-19 victims.

A bench comprising Justices MR Shah and BV Nagarathna also directed the state governments to give full particulars like name, address and death certificate to the concerned SLSA, as also complete details with respect to orphans, within one week from today (Friday) failing which the matter shall be viewed very seriously.

The top court reiterated that applications seeking compensation should not be rejected on technical grounds and if any technical glitch is found, the states concerned should give them opportunity to cure defects as the ultimate goal of the welfare state is to provide some solace and compensation to victims.

States should make all endeavours to pay the compensation to the victims within a maximum period of 10 days from the receipt of the claim, it said. "Despite our earlier order directing all the state governments to give full particulars of the deaths due to Covid-19 registered with their portal and the number of persons to whom the ex gratia payment is made, it appears that most of the states have given only statistics and no full particulars are given.

File photo of a health official spraying disinfectant on his colleague inside a covid-19 mobile testing van

"The object and purpose of our earlier order to give full particulars was to see that at least with respect to those cases which are registered with the state governments if they have not approached the appropriate authorities for compensation," the bench said. "The legal services authority will reach them and see that they make an application and they act as facilitator as a bridge. Similarly the particulars with respect to orphans are not given. We direct all the state governments to give full particulars including their name, address, death certificate etc. to the concerned state legal service authority including full particulars with respect to orphans within one week from today failing which the matter shall be viewed very seriously," it said. The apex court said that the endeavour of legal services authority would be to reach to those sufferers/ victims who have yet not approached for whatever reasons. **– PTI**

Don't want 'Z' security, invoke UAPA against attackers: Owaisi in LS

#New Delhi

AIMIM member Asaduddin Owaisi on Friday rejected 'Z' security cover extended to him by the government, a day after gunshots were fired at his car in western Uttar Pradesh.

Speaking in the Lok Sabha, Owaisi urged the government to charge those who attacked him with stringent provisions of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act and appealed to end radicalisation in the country. "I don't want Z category security. I want to be an A-category citizen, at par with you all. Why was UAPA not invoked against those who fired at me? ...I want to live, to speak. My life will be safe when the poor are safe. I will not get scared of those who shot at my car," he said in Parliament. On Thursday, gunshots were fired at Owaisi's vehicle at Hapur in western Uttar Pradesh when he was returning to Delhi after campaigning for the assembly elections. The government had decided to provide Owaisi 'Z' category security after an assessment of the threat perception after the incident, official sources said.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said the state government has arrested the culprits and also seized the weapon and vehicle used in the attack.

Goyal said Home Minister Amit Shah will make a statement in the House on Monday. "I do not want 'Z' security. I wish to lead a free life. I have to raise my voice against the government. If I get shot while doing this, it is acceptable to me. But I cannot lead a life of suffocation," Owaisi said. Owaisi demanded that the government set up a counter-radicalisation cell, comprising religious and community leaders, in the Internal Security Department of the Home Ministry. "Radicalisation will harm you and lead to an increase in right-wing terrorism," he said and sought to know why provisions of the UAPA were not invoked against the radicalised youth who attacked him.

India rejects Tesla's call for tax breaks in new blow

#New Delhi

India turned down a demand of Elon Musk's Tesla Inc. for tax breaks to import electric cars, saying rules already allow bringing in partially-built vehicles and assembling them locally at a lower levy.

"We looked at whether the duties need to be re-jigged, but some domestic production is happening and some investments have come in with the current tariff structure," Vivek Johri, chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, said in an interview Thursday. "So, it is clear that this is not a hindrance."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration has encouraged Tesla to produce locally, while Musk wants India to lower taxes -- as high as 100% on imported EVs -- to enable the company to first sell vehicles built elsewhere at competitive prices. However, it levies import duties of between 15-30% on parts shipped for assembly in the nation.

Tesla has yet to present a plan for local manufacturing and procurement from India, even after the government asked for it, Johri said. The federal budget earlier this week didn't mention any tax breaks for cleaner but imported vehicles, even though the western state of Maharashtra -- home to financial capital Mumbai -- publicly backed Tesla's demands.

– ET Online

Punjab CM's nephew sent to ED custody till Feb 8

#Chandigarh

A court in Punjab's Jalandhar city on Friday sent Bhupinder Singh Honey, Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's nephew, to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody till February 8 in connection with a Prevention of Money Laundering case pertaining to illegal mining in Punjab.

The ED on late Thursday arrested him after over eight hours of questioning. He was summoned for the second time. Honey was earlier summoned by the ED to join the investigation on January 23, but he skipped the first summon on health issues and did not join the investigation. He informed the ED officials that he was Covid-19 positive and was unable to join the probe.

On January 18, the ED had conducted raids at 10 locations, including Homeland Heights which is the residence of Honey. The ED continued raiding at different places for two days and recovered incriminating documents.

Honey was asked to appear before the ED's zonal office in Jalandhar. He had to record his statement in connection with the ongoing probe.

– IANS

Mukesh Ambani's latest set of wheels cost a cool ₹13.14 cr

#Hyderabad

A m Reliance Industries (RIL), headed by India's richest man Mukesh Ambani, has bought an ultra-luxury Rolls Royce hatchback costing Rs 13.14 crore. If RTO officials are to be believed, it is one of the most expensive car purchases ever in the country. The car, a Rolls Royce Cullinan petrol model, was registered by RIL at the Tardeo Regional Transport Office in South Mumbai on January 31, officials aware of the matter said. The base price of the car, when first launched in 2018, was Rs 6.95 crore, but auto industry experts said customized modifications would have raised the price substantially. The company has opted for the 'Tuscan Sun' colour for the 12-cylinder car weighing over 2.5 tonnes and producing 564 BHP power, and also obtained a special number plate, RTO officials said. A one-time tax

of Rs 20 lakh has been paid by RIL for the car whose registration is valid till January 30, 2037, and another Rs 40,000 has been paid towards road safety tax. This could even be the most expensive car purchased in India, said one RTO official. RIL has also paid Rs 12 lakh for getting a VIP number for its chairman and managing director's new car.

The number ends with "0001", officials said. Usually a VIP number costs Rs 4 lakh, but since the chosen number in the current series was already taken, a new series had to be started, they said. With a written permission from the Transport Commissioner, RTO offices can start a new series for assigning registration mark 0001 for which the applicant has to shell out three times the fee specified for a regular number, they added. Rolls Royce Cullinan was launched in India in 2018. **– PTI**

HEALTH TIP: Cashew nuts contain proanthocyanidin (flavonols) which can help prevent cancer by fighting tumour cells and restricting their growth and division

Tomatoes are a good source of potassium and are linked with lowering elevated blood pressure. They can also help prevent cardiovascular diseases

BEST OF
DR MAHINDER WATSA

The finest responses of Dr Watsa are being republished in this column as a tribute to him.

1 My wife and I are newly-weds, and we have been trying to engage in sexual intercourse for a while now. However, we have been unable to do so. Whenever I try to penetrate, even if I use force, the penis does not enter and my wife experiences discomfort even if we use lubricating gel. What should we do?
I suggest that you consult a sexpert in person – meet someone who is knowledgeable so that he or she is able to guide you and your wife on how to treat this situation. To begin with, you may start by trying to insert a well-lubricated finger into the vagina. Please do not use force.

2 I am a 40-year-old man. A friend of mine suggested that my wife and I start engaging in role-play during intercourse, because it will spice up our sex life. What do you think?
I certainly agree with your friend's advice. It will help you to adopt more such ideas that spice up your life. You may add a holiday or two to the list of tips.

3 I am a 22-year-old man. I have been masturbating regularly for years, but I haven't been able to find the time to masturbate as often now. So, occasionally, when I do masturbate, I tend to do it many times in succession. Could this be harmful to my health?
This method is certainly not something I would recommend. Surely you can find some time even if you have a very busy schedule.

4 I am 55 years old. My wife is 52 and enjoys only oral sex. But, she is a diabetic. Will this cause any problems?
No, it won't. You will feel satisfied that you are making her happy.

MEET THE SEXPERTS
Use this QR code to send your questions to us

Grey's anatomy

Take note of the causes, prevention and care for greying or white hair, as per an expert

Kalwyna Rathod
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Grey hair or white hair is a common phenomenon – your hair is bound to change as you grow older, just like your skin. But before getting into the various white hair treatment options available, understand how hair loses colour. Hair follicles, the small sacs that line your skin cells, have melanin in them. Melanin or pigment cells are responsible for the colour of your skin as well as your hair. Over time, follicles lose the pigment, which results in grey or white hair.

If you've just seen your first strand of grey hair or are troubled by the number of greys on your head, the good news is that white hair treatment is possible.

Dermatologist Dr Meeta Desai explains that white or grey hair is considered a sign of ageing or other reasons for the same can be genetics, UV damage, pollution, inflammation, emotional factors, etc. The role of reactive oxygen species (ROS), which is often associated with oxidative stress, is also being studied for the treatment of white hair. "Premature greying is defined as greying of hair before 30 years in African Americans; in Indians, hair losing pigment before 25 years can be considered early greying," she adds.

Causes of greying

Dr Desai says it's possible to stop or delay white hair by eating healthy food. "Maintain a balanced diet rich in proteins, vitamins, minerals. Additionally, stop smoking and consuming alcohol for white hair treatment," she adds.

If you take any other drugs, check with your doctor to make sure white hair isn't a side effect of it. Be sure to wear UV protective serums, caps or use an umbrella in the sun. Avoid pollution or cover your hair when you're outside in polluted air. Lead an active lifestyle and reduce stress, which will, in turn, reduce ROS.

Dr Desai suggests, "Speak to your dermatologist for advice on supplements or serums to delay greying and treatment for white hair to turn black. Shampoos containing antioxidants like vitamin C and E will prove to be useful, as will products containing green tea extract, selenium, copper, and phytoestrogens."

Home remedies

Coconut oil is a good white hair treatment oil. Massage it onto your scalp and hair every other night; shampoo off the next morning.

Use clarified butter or ghee twice a week to massage scalp and hair.

Apply onion juice onto your scalp and shampoo it after 30 minutes two times each week.

Grind a bunch of curry leaves with two teaspoons each of amla powder and Brahmi powder. Apply this hair mask onto the scalp and hair, and shampoo after an hour. This is one of the natural remedies for white hair that works!

Another white hair treatment oil to use is amla oil; massage your hair with it once a week.

Say no to damage

You probably heard that one must not pull out white hair. Dr Desai says, "Pulling out a few strands is okay, but if you continue doing it, it will eventually lead to volume loss."

She also advises: stop smoking, avoid fad diets and junk food, eat healthy to get proper nutrition, avoid unnecessary medicines, control stress and change your sedentary lifestyle.

Get your dose of vitamins...

As mentioned, eating healthy food can delay premature greying of hair. Below are the essential vitamins that you must include in your diet. Vitamin A aids in the production of sebum or oil produced by the sebaceous glands beneath the skin. Sebum keeps the scalp and hair healthy and nourished. Vitamin C protects cells from oxidative damage, keeping them healthy. B Vitamins like B6 and B12 are two complex B vitamins that boost skin and hair health. Vitamin B6 is known to restore the original colour of hair post an illness or deficiency.

Para-Amino Benzoic Acid (PABA) and pantothenic acid delay the greying of hair. Together with folic acid, the latter can reverse greying. Niacin aids scalp circulation, which nourishes hair follicles. Inositol encourages the growth and health of hair, while biotin produces keratin.

And minerals

Apart from vitamins, minerals support hair health too. Add iron to your diet by eating lentils, dark green leafy vegetables, dates and jaggery.

Copper can be beneficial too. Include it in your diet by consuming peanuts, almonds, lentils, white mushrooms and dark chocolate. Calcium from dairy and dark green leafy vegetables and zinc from beans and whole grains are also beneficial for hair health.

—Reviewed by Dr Meeta Desai

MIRRORLIGHTS

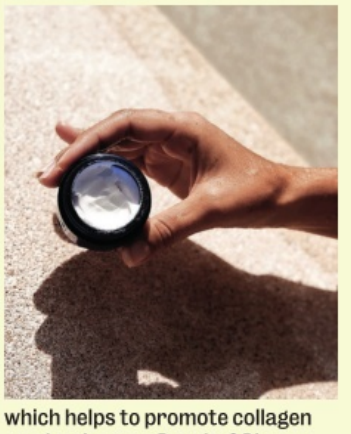
Calendula for skin care

Whenever there comes a point when you feel you've finally become a skincare pro, in walks another new ingredient crashing all your confidence. As a beauty writer, I'm (pleasantly) surprised with newer ingredients popping up on ingredient lists of products. However, it makes me happier when an all-natural yet potent and effective ingredient is discovered that can do a lot for the skin. Case in point: calendula, also known as Calendula officinalis or Marigold, is a plant from the daisy family Asteraceae that can calm your skin just like a warm hug does on a bad day.

Calendula got its name from the Latin word', 'kalendae' meaning the first day of every month. If you didn't already understand, calendula is believed to bloom only at the start of every month. Calendula is no ordinary flower, it has more benefits for your skin than you think.

"Ancient folklore suggests that Calendula was born when a young woman who fell in love with Apollo melted due to the power of his rays. And that it even heals broken hearts. We don't know about that but scientific studies revealed the flower's potential to soothe sunburns and heal skin conditions like eczema due to its anti-inflammatory properties," shares Prasanthy Gurugubelli, founder of Daughter Earth.

The pretty saffron-hued flower's benefits will exceed your expectations. For starters, calendula is one of those rare ingredients that works supremely well on sensitive skin. From irritation to redness, from dryness to dullness, calendula can reverse all of it, thanks to the anti-inflammatory properties that can calm and soothe the skin incredibly well. Calendula has also been used in ancient Ayurvedic and Chinese medicine, which indicates its amazing healing properties. Therefore, calendula is also an effective treatment for any wounds or scars on the skin. Besides sensitive skin, why calendula also makes for a fabulous anti-ageing ingredient is because of its rich antioxidant content which helps to promote collagen production too. Results? Plumper, healthier and happier skin. Every skin type can use this in toners, serums and moisturisers.



—Ria Bhatia

Chai-Time

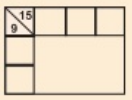
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

10/2(2+3)/(3+2)*10/2 = ?

mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

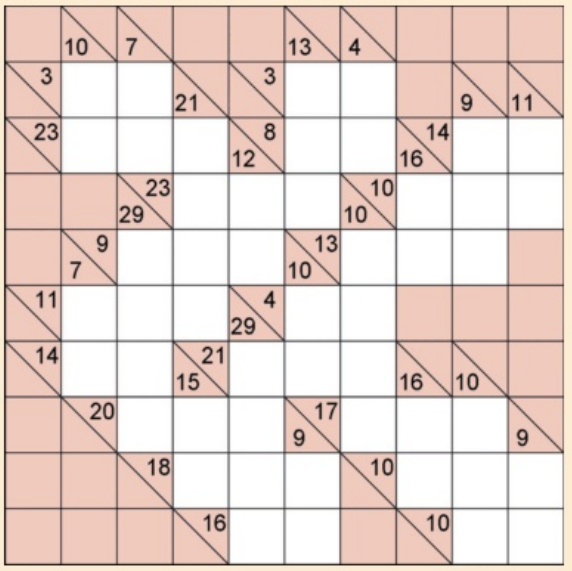
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

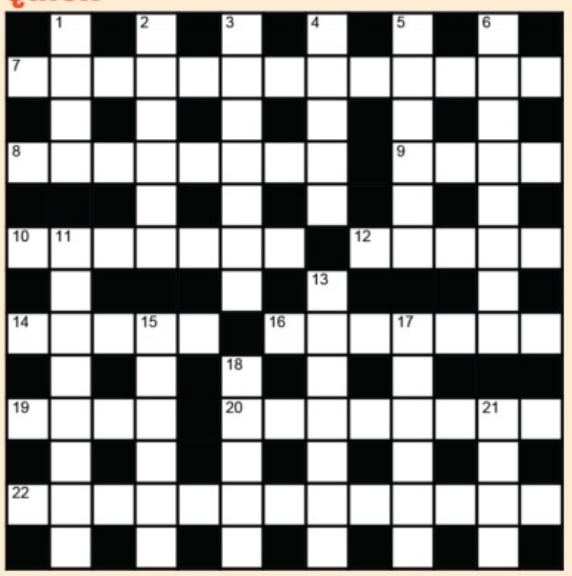


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Tanned by the elements (7-6)
8 An act of kindness-not a sin (4,4)
9 Burden or weight (4)
10 Free from blame (7)
12 Moral values (5)
14 144 in number or quantity (5)
16 Romantic singer (7)
19 Similar to, matching (4)
20 Giving up, succumbing or relenting (8)
22 Temporarily and conditionally (13)

DOWN

1 Fiddling emperor (4)
2 Artist's workplace (6)
3 Accept or act as a fence? (7)
4 Stay; remain (5)
5 A dance epic (6)
6 Pessimistic (8)
11 Impediments or hindrances (8)
13 Park in Bangalore's Central Business District (7)
15 Defer consideration of (6)
17 Veteran convict? (3,3)
18 African lake-"as any" anagram? (5)
21 ____ and void? (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS O

CWYYWA YXAWW XRZAB YRR BRRG YXNG N JVGZYW YRR KNYW.

Linemaro

Did your licence get suspended for driving all the guys crazy?

Mindchow

The bicycle is a curious vehicle. Its passenger is its engine

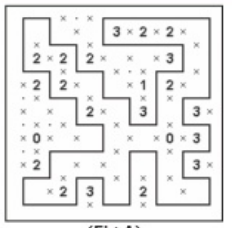
Joke of the day

Confucius Say
A single fact can ruin a good argument

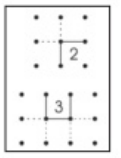
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

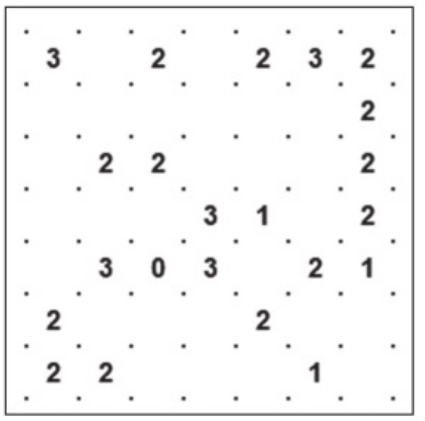


(Fig B) Not Allowed

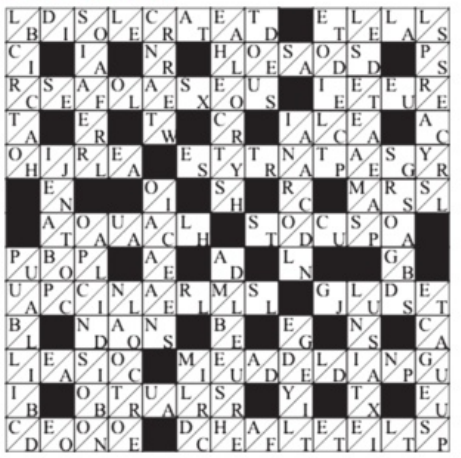
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



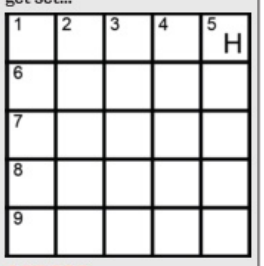
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

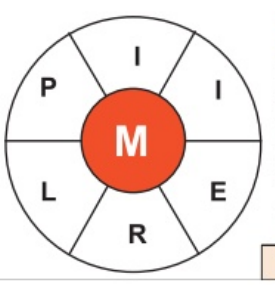
1 Touch; 6 An ape;
7 Her me; 8 Are to;
9 Bahts

DOWN

1 Broca; 2 Or ape;
3 Haunt; 4 The ET;
5 Has me

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark to make this puzzle work?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; **08** Good; **10** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

5	8		9		3		6	1
6								7
			6		2			
2	7						5	9
	5	6				2	3	
3	1						8	6
			1		5			
9								2
4	6		2		7		1	8

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

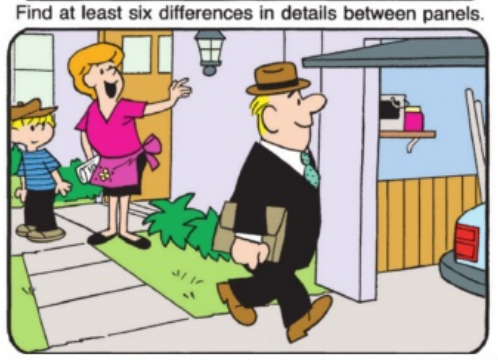
Easy = 13
2 4 7 8

Medium = 35
2 6 7 9

Hard = 10
1 5 7 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



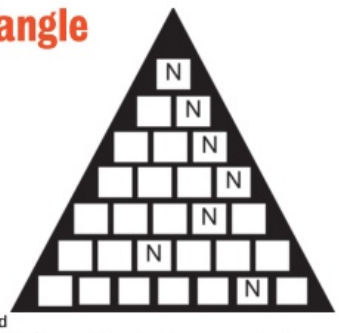
Differences: 1. Car is moved. 2. Walkway is wider. 3. Boy is moved. 4. Garage door handle is missing. 5. Light is moved. 6. Shelf is lower.

Riddler

I am tall when I am young. I am short when I am old. When I live I glow. From your breath I die. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 One of the poles
2 A's alternative
3 Bolted
4 Persia today
5 Pours down
6 Bahrain bucks
7 Fish in a can



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel dull. Your moon will make you impatient and nervous. You will criticise yourself. Keep an eye on your opponents and rivals. Avoid fantasising while putting effort into your profession. Postpone new investments. Take care of your mother and elders.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today is a favourable day for you. You are likely to acquire some inherited property. You may also expect to recover bad debts, which may boost your financial health. Losses are likely to convert into profits now. There may be some improvement in your relationships with your loved ones. Students will be able to choose the right career.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be busy at work. You may make some important decisions in terms of work, which may boost your business. You may also receive a big order, which may boost the business. Disputes with your spouse may get settled now, which may boost family harmony.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
As you are blessed by elders, today will be good. You may feel more spiritual. You are likely to visit a religious place with your family and friends. You may also plan to visit elders or a consultant to take advice. Singles will find their soulmates. Love birds will be happy in their dating lives.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may feel dull. You may sense some mysterious, scary vibes around you. You are advised to visit a religious place or chant prayers to come out from this messy situation. You are advised to keep an eye on your opponents and business rivals, otherwise you may become a victim of conspiracy. Love birds must avoid unnecessary arguments.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be busy with your family and friends. You may plan to go to a party or watch movies. Mutual respect between couples may develop, which may help to develop a strong foundation for your domestic life. In partnerships, many disputes may get resolved. Students are advised to make quick decisions in terms of their career. Love birds may make some important decisions in terms of marriage.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may perform well at work. Your bonding with your boss is likely to improve. Your opponents and rivals are now under control. Money, which was stuck, is likely to get recovered now. This may increase liquidity in business.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may be busy with children's issues. Their health is likely to improve. You may plan for their academics. Couples may welcome a new child to their family. You may use your presence of mind to settle disputes in business or in your social life.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be disappointed. You are not focused. Negative thoughts may make you upset. You are advised to connect with positive people around you. You may plan to migrate from one place to another. Job seekers may find new jobs and students are advised to be patient. Singles will find a good match.

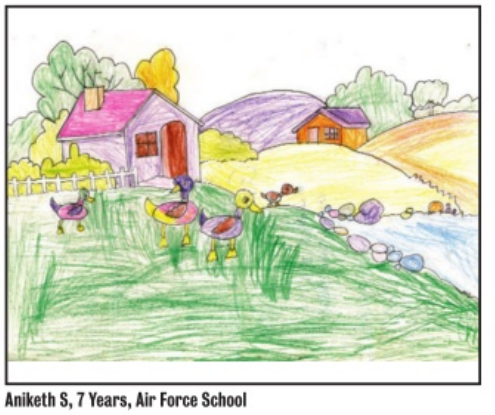
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you are more energetic and excited. Your focus on your goals might be very good. Your network may help you to grow your business. Follow your intuition before making investments in fixed assets. Your emotional relationship with your spouse is likely to improve, which will help to maintain domestic harmony. Singles may find their soulmates with the help of siblings or friends.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
You have been busy with your family and friends. You will plan to go on outings. Children's education will also keep you busy. Their health may upset you. Control your tongue and ego, or it may affect your domestic harmony.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you must practice caution. Be careful and read documents carefully before signing any contracts. Due to over excitement, you may make silly mistakes. Your boss may be cooperative. You are likely to achieve a promotion in your job. Love birds are advised to avoid discussing family matters.

KIDZONE

Shravya KG, 8 Years, The New Cambridge English School



Aniketh S, 7 Years, Air Force School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
=10/2(5)/(5)*10/2
=5(5)/5*5
=5*1*5
=25

BULL'S EYE
emir, impel, IMPERIL, lime, limp, mile, mire, perm, prim, prime

STRIKE OUT

B	I	S	E	C	T	E	D	■	E	E	L	E	L	S
I	■	A	■	R	■	L	■	O	■	A	■	D	■	S
R	E	F	L	E	X	E	S	■	I	■	T	■	E	R
T	■	E	■	W	■	C	■	A	■	C	■	E	■	A
H	I	R	E	■	S	T	R	A	T	E	G	Y	■	■
■	■	N	■	O	■	S	■	R	■	M	■	R	S	■
T	O	U	C	H	■	S	O	U	S	A	■	■	■	■
U	P	I	N	A	R	M	S	■	J	U	S	T	■	■
P	O	P	■	E	■	A	■	N	■	B	■	■	■	■
B	■	N	A	N	■	B	■	E	■	N	■	A	■	■
L	I	K	E	■	Y	I	E	L	D	I	N	G	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	R	■	H	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
G	R	O	S	S	■	C	R	O	O	N	E	R	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	A	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
A	B	S	O	L	V	E	■	E	T	H	I	C	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	I	■	E	■	■	■	T	■	■	■
G	O	O	D	D	E	E	D	■	L	O	A	D	■	■
W	E	A	T	H	E	R	B	E	A	T	E	N	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

FAST FIVE

C	O	U	T	H
A	P	N	E	A
R	E	H	E	M
O	R	A	T	E
B	A	T	H	S

RIDDLER A candle

QUOTE UNCODE
Better three hours too soon than a minute too late.

QUICK

N	S	■	R	■	A	■	B	■	N	■	■	■	■	■
■	E	■	A	■	M	■	G	■	L	■	■	■	■	■
P	R	O	V	I	S	I	O	N	A	L	L	Y	■	■
E	■	L	■	A	■	D	■	L	■	U	■	■	■	■
L	I	K	E	■	Y	I	E	L	D	I	N	G	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

SUDOKU

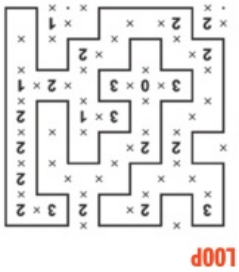
5	8	2	9	7	3	4	6	1
6	9	3	4	5	1	8	2	7
1	4	7	6	8	2	3	9	5
2	7	4	3	6	8	1	5	9
8	5	6	7	1	9	2	3	4
3	1	9	5	2	4	7	8	6
7	2	8	1	9	5	6	4	3
9	3	1	8	4	6	5	7	2
4	6	5	2	3	7	9	1	8

MENSA PUZZLE
K. The numerical values of the letters in opposite segments add up to 17.

ALPHA TRIANGLE
N, An, Ran, Iran, Rains, Diners, Sardine.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 - 4 + 7 + 8 = 13
Medium
7 x 6 - 9 + 2 = 35
Hard
7 - 2 x 1 + 5 = 10

LOOP



KAKURO

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Nobel nomination for Tibetan filmmaker
Dhondup Wangchen, a Tibetan filmmaker and a former political prisoner, has reportedly been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 2022, local media has reported

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Fan girls

If Victoria Beckham digs DP's style, actor too is all praise for British celebrity

Time and again, Deepika Padukone has made sure that her sartorial choices make a noteworthy mark be it during promotions, casual public appearances or red carpet events.

Having said that, the actress donned another alluring look for 'Gehraiyaan' promotions, this time with an all-white ensemble. Consisting of a shirt with double pockets at the front and with buttons partially unbuttoned, it sat as a V-neck. She teamed up with a pair of high-waisted trousers.

While the look has been receiving a lot of love and appreciation from fans and well-wishers, what grabbed our attention was Victoria Beckham giving a shout out to Deepika's head-to-toe white look. Dedicating a post on her Instagram, Victoria wrote, "Beautiful @deepikapadukone in one of my favourite #VBPSS22 looks"

Back in 2019, Deepika was also gushing over Victoria Beckham's vacation looks. She was seen donning a strappy maxi gown in two different colours in two separate pictures shared on her Instagram. In the comments section of one of the posts, Deepika acknowledged it by writing,"I want this dress in both the colours you wore them in." She added a bunch of weeping eyes and heart-eyes emojis to go along with her comment.

In 'Gehraiyaan', Deepika will be seen sharing screen space with Ananya Panday, Siddhant Chaturvedi and Dhairya Karwa. Speaking about her character, Deepika had earlier shared, "Alisha, my character in Gehraiyaan is extremely close to my heart and certainly one of the most challenging characters I have portrayed on screen. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to play a role that was fun and challenging at the same time. Each of the characters' struggles and arcs are real, raw and relatable."

—ETimes

I reversed
my diabetes,
in just 3 months.
I'm fine, thanks to MFine.
mfine
ONE APP FOR ALL YOUR HEALTH NEEDS
Scan the QR code to join Diabetes Care Plan

Renee's killer looks

In the first teaser of 'The Thing About Pam', Oscar-winning actor Renee Zellweger has made a jaw-dropping transformation as killer Pam Hupp.

The teaser for NBC's true crime series shows Zellweger wearing body padding and facial prosthetics to embody the diabolical, soda-slurping killer. According to E! News, the plot for the show is based on the 2011 murder of Betsy Faria that resulted in her husband Russ' conviction. Though Russ was later exonerated the crime set off a chain of events that exposed a scheme planned by Pam.

Raj Kundra's precious transfer to wifey dear

Businessman Raj Kundra has reportedly transferred ownership of his flats and Juhu home to his wife, Shilpa Shetty.

According to reports on Zapkey.com, the businessman, who was arrested and released on bail in the pornography case, has transferred the properties worth Rs 38.5 crore to his actress wife. The documents accessed, showed that Kundra transferred that a total of 5 flats in the building named Ocean View located in Juhu along with the entire basement was transferred to his wife's name.

Varun Singh, Founder of SquareFeatIndia.com further said that, the total area transferred by Raj Kundra to Shilpa Shetty measures around 5,996 square feet. It also is the house which both the husband and wife has shown as their current address.

Shetty, on the other hand, paid a stamp duty of Rs 1.9 crore on the transfer deed. The documents were reportedly registered on January 21, 2022.

The report further adds that the transfer was valued at the current market rate which is an estimated Rs 65,000 per sq ft.

—ETimes

'Alia stands out as she is not stuck in mould'

The 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' trailer is out and while the audience is catching up on Sanjay Leela Bhansali's new movie with Alia Bhatt and Ajay Devgn, a select few from the film industry have seen the trailer yesterday. Reactions coming out from these early viewings were that Alia Bhatt has completely dissolved into her Gangubai character. The film is slated to release on February 24.

ETimes reached out to Mahesh Bhatt to record his thoughts on Alia's performance and the reactions that her portrayal of Gangubai is getting after the trailer release. Bhatt first shared a message that he wanted to convey to Alia. He said, "Remain what you are. Don't try to be different from what you are, even for a moment. Only then you will begin to share your 'fragrance'. Your need to be accepted by the world makes you give in. A flower does not preach. A weed does not want to be a rose. It does not care if you do not praise it or even crush it. The model is the problem." Explaining his opinion and thoughts he added, "According to me, Alia stands out as Gangubai because she has not moulded herself to a model."